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BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT

Herefordshire



A N N U A L R E P O R T

on the
State of the Public Health
for the year 1952.

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health.

{ I.F. MACKENZIE, M.D.(Edin), D.P.H.,
 { D.T.M. & H.,
 { (Appointed 19th. August, 1952)
{ L.N. GOULD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
 { (Resigned 19th. August, 1952)

Sanitary Inspector.

A.A. MAXWELL, M.S.I.A., M.I.P.C.,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for 1952 is presented herewith. It will be noted that, on this occasion, it has been duplicated in the office instead of being printed as hitherto. The cost of printing amounted to £10. 10. 0 last year: this year the report has been produced at an estimated saving to the rates of £8. 10. 0.

Apart from the odd cases of Measles and Whooping Cough during the early part of the year, no epidemic of infectious disease occurred.

As our second housing scheme is making good progress the main problem, from the public health point of view, that still faces the Council is the provision of up to date sewage disposal plant. The need has long been recognized by members of the Council. As preliminary steps have already been taken and contact made with the appropriate Ministry, there is no point in my making further reference to the project.

I have been impressed by the friendly co-operative spirit existing among officials and by the confidence which you Mr. Chairman and the Members of the Council place in us, your officers, to carry out our duties conscientiously and impartially.

I.F. MACKENZIE.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Office : 4, Church Street, Leominster.
Telephone No. Leominster 95.

SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate) 23 12 11			
(Illegitimate) 1 - 1			
Total 24 12 12			
STILL BIRTHS (Legitimate) - - -			
(Illegitimate) 1 - 1			
Total 1 - 1			
DEATHS 29 16 13			
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES Nil			
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE			
YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate) 2 - 2			
(Illegitimate) Nil			

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1952.

Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) 14.5
Birth Rate for England and Wales 15.3

Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) 0.61
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales 0.35

Death Rate (per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population) 17.6
Death Rate for England and Wales 11.3

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 related live births) 83.3
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales 27.6

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

CLINICS

Under the County Council and Regional Hospital Board schemes the following clinic facilities are available to residents in the district :-

Child Welfare Centre: On alternate Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m.
at the Church Hall, Bromyard.

Children are referred to the Ear Nose and Throat, Eye, Paediatric and Tuberculosis Clinics in Hereford as and when required.

I am indebted to Mr. A.A. Maxwell, Sanitary Inspector to the Council for the following statement (Section C to E) furnished under the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTIONS.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply from the springs has remained fairly static during the year, despite the leak in the gravitation main.

Chlorination is carried out at Three Mills before delivery to the Knapp (100,000 gallons) and Flaggoners Green (40,000 gallons) Reservoirs.

The Rural District still have properties obtaining their supplies from the Urban area and it is reported that they intend joining the Martley Rural District scheme. Whether this means that the properties at present getting the supply will automatically be transferred no information has been obtained, but in my opinion the existing supply needs more storage capacity if properties in the Rural District want water from the Urban District. With costs as they are at present, surely the time has come for the parochial outlook of authorities to be forgotten and concentrated action needed to get not the Urban area but the adjoining Rural District an adequate supply.

The work of installing the automatic pumping machinery is proceeding.

The samples of the supply which were submitted during the year were termed to be "Very Satisfactory".

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The progress during the year for a disposal plant was nil, but in Sherford Street a new 6" sewer was laid to replace the stone drain and no flooding has since occurred.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A motor refuse lorry was obtained at the end of the year and the direct labour scheme results in more efficient and speedy collection.

The highways are cleansed daily and the gulleys disinfected after cleansing.

The Public Conveniences are now free to both sexes and the buildings are cleansed daily.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There is one camping site in the district which is mostly used by Fairs and Circuses. The condition of the vans used by these people made the inspections a pleasure as they were so clean and tidy.

The tourists travelling in caravans also kept them in a spotless condition, the objection of some areas against holiday caravans is not made in Bromyard. The Council's policy is to attract the holidaymaker with the caravan.

RAG, FLOCK and OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises in the District requiring registration under this Act.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

No businesses of this type are within the District.

DISINFESTATION OF PREMISES

Two houses were treated for minor infestation of fleas during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The efforts of your operator during the year produced the following results:-

The approximate kill during the year at Refuse Tip - 250; Sewers - 135; Business Premises and Private Houses - 300.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

A complaint of alleged smoke nuisance was again received during the year and was again due to neglect on the part of an employee. This was rectified immediately.

RIVER POLLUTION

The condition of the sewers has again caused concern by the effluent but it is hoped that when the Forburries Outfall is treated this will cease.

FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	9	28	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	-	-	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	9	28	-	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL					

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Informal and Verbal Notices .. ..	..	72
Ditto complied with .. ..	..	64
Letters sent out .. ..	..	70
Complaints received .. ..	..	18
Ditto confirmed .. ..	..	17
Nuisances found .. ..	..	8

GENERAL SUMMARY

Total number of Inspections	411
Total number of Re-inspections made ..	186

DRAINAGE

New Drainage .. .. ..	..	10
Repairs to Existing Drainage .. ..	..	16
Smoke, water etc. tests .. ..	..	26
Traps provided .. .. ..	..	1

DWELLING HOUSES

Ordinary .. .. ..	..	58
Infectious Disease and contacts	6
Overcrowding	2

SANITARY CONVENIENCES

Water Closets provided	2
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REFUSE DISPOSAL

New Bins	2
Accumulations of Refuse	6
Tips	52
Rodent Control Surveys	12

WATER

Inspection of Springs	..	..	12
Gauging .. .. ..	..	..	1
Testing Flow and Pressure	..	..	6
Examination of Reservoirs	..	..	12
Moveable Dwellings - Fairs, etc.	..	..	10
Disinfection .. .. ..	..	..	1

FOOD PREMISES

Dairies, Cafes and Butchers' Shops	72
Bakehouses, etc., Informal Notices	8

SECTION D - HOUSING

No houses were erected by the Local Authority during the year.

Two houses were erected by Private Persons.

The demand for housing accommodation continues and people are clamouring for new houses in the area. The Council have at present sixteen houses under construction and have decided to erect 56 houses of the "Gregory" type at Bannut Tree Estate. The cost of building is still increasing and one wonders when will a ceiling be reached for economic costs.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 58
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 62
2. Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 12

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY NOTICES DURING THE YEAR:

Proceedings under the Public Health Act:

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring repairs 8
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after the service of formal notices:-
 - (a) By Owners 6
 - (b) By Local Authority Nil

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

BAKEHOUSES

There are five bakehouses in the area which are inspected at frequent intervals. The standard of cleanliness in all cases was fairly satisfactory.

PUBLIC HOUSES AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

The Licensed Premises in the district have on request improved where necessary the sanitary accommodation; and the washing facilities have been improved. Although all the public houses have not yet installed hot water supplies in the serving apartments, promises to have this put in hand have been made by the Brewery Companies.

The conditions of two of the catering establishments were the subject of action during the year. Certain alterations and improvements were requested and where work has not been completed it is in progress.

ICE CREAM

All ice cream sold in the area is pre-packed and no complaints have been received.

FOOD MANUFACTURING PREMISES

The Butchers' Shops used for manufacturing sausage and cooked meat have received attention during the year and where no facilities for washing were provided informal notices were served asking for this along with structural improvements. The trade co-operated well and all the improvements are now completed.

DAIRIES

During the year ten milk samples were taken and two failed to meet the recognized standard of cleanliness.

The bottles at one dairy have been the subject of bacteriological examination and the results have proved satisfactory

FOOD FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION & DESTROYED

15 Cwt. (approx.)	Soft Fruit	Decomposed
96 Lbs. Ham .. .. ..	.	Ditto.
4 tins Imported Cooked Ham	.	Punctured tins.
6 Chickens .. .. ..	.	Decomposed
7 Lbs. Imported Onions		Ditto.
194 tins Beans, Tomatoes)		Blown, Punctured
Soups, Fruit, etc.) .		or rusty tins.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSES OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES ACCORDING TO AGE

Disease	Age of Patient								TOTAL
	0-1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 & Over	Unknown	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	6
Acute Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Measles	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	4
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	3

FOOD POISONING

Three cases of Food Poisoning were notified during the year. These cases all occurred in the same household and comprised a mother and her two children. The organism responsible was identified as *Salmonella typhi-murium*. Investigation did not reveal the food causing this isolated outbreak.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following figures are presented through information supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation and number who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection subsequent to primary immunisation at an earlier age, during the 12 months ended 31st. December, 1952.

Age at date of final injection.				Reinforcing injections.
Under 1	1-4	5-14	Total	
16	14	3	33	43

The Registrar General regrets that owing to a reduction in the sources of information available for estimating local populations under 15 years of age for County Districts, it will no longer be possible to supply estimates of such populations.

Population figures under 15 have been supplied in the past mainly to provide a basis for estimating the proportion of the child population in the area which had been immunised against diphtheria.

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1952 the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of four males and four females who normally reside within the district.

During the year, one new case was notified on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

During the same period two deaths of persons suffering from Tuberculosis occurred, and three left the district.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	1	1
6. Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus .	-	-	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	2	1	3
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .	3	3	6
18. Coronary disease, angina	3	4	7
19. Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	-	1
20. Other heart disease	3	2	5
21. Other circulatory disease	-	-	-
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	-	-	-
24. Bronchitis	2	-	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	-	-
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
34. All other accidents	-	-	-
35. Suicide	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war ...	-	-	-





